

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN



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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN
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Persons sending contributions to the PLOUGHMAN for use in its columns must sign their names, and necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith, otherwise they will be confined to the waste-basket. All matter intended for publication should be written on one side of paper, with ink, and upon but one side.
Correspondence from practical farmers, giving the results of their experience, is solicited. Letters should be signed with the writer's real name, in full, which will be printed or not, as the writer may wish.
The PLOUGHMAN offers great advantages to advertisers. In circulation is large and among the most active and intelligent portion of the community. Entered as second-class mail matter.

The Farming Train in Massachusetts.

The trip from Boston to Haverhill Saturday, April 7 was considered a fair sample of the tour of the "Better Farming Special" train. The train had slowly worked its way during the three days before from eastern Massachusetts to the coast, and was now to begin its longer journey through northern New England.

The train left Boston promptly at eight o'clock Saturday morning, manned by the usual train crew, a dozen speakers, mostly from the State Agricultural College, and a few newspaper men.

Besides Prof. W. P. Brooks, there were on board Prof. Fred S. Cooley, assistant professor of agriculture; Prof. George E. Stone, professor of botany; Prof. James B. Paige, Prof. Henry T. Fernald, professor of entomology; Prof. Sidney B. Haskell, instructor in agriculture; Prof. Marjorie A. Blake, instructor in horticulture, all of the Amherst College faculty; Henri D. Haskins, chemist of fertilizers; Philip H. Smith, assistant chemist of fertilizers, from the college experiment station; Ernest A. Buck, post graduate, and Alexander H. M. Wood and Richard Wellington, senior students; Charles D. Richardson, master of the State Grange; Prof. F. M. Harwood, general agent of the Massachusetts dairy bureau; Professor Robertson, expert in poultry raising; W. A. Henshaw, secretary of the Boston Milk Producers Company, at WAKEFIELD.

In half an hour the train reached Wakefield, where about two hundred farmers and others interested in the project were waiting. The weather was first class and everything favorable for an outing. The visitors included a good many representative market gardeners and a number of all-around farmers from surrounding towns, including Lynnfield, Sanger and Montrose. The day being Saturday, the proceedings were handicapped a trifle by the crowd of children who insisted upon seeing all that was to be seen, standing with muddy feet on the car seats for the purpose. At one of the stops, Secretary Ellsworth headed off this crowd of young folks by giving them a little special lecture by themselves. The young folks were highly delighted, and were kept amused for nearly half an hour in this way.

THE PRACTICAL FARMERS quickly sought the exhibition car, beginning at the rear end of the train, which was devoted to general farming and fertilizers, under charge of Professor Brooks and assistants, and then entering the animal husbandry car and the two cars devoted to horticulture and milk production. The speakers, having been in practice for several days, had worked the plan to a fine point. Without any pretense, they began at once on their favorite points and pounded them vigorously into the audience.

PROFESSOR BROOKS SPOKE forcibly on the fertilizer question. Avoid low grade fertilizers, he advised in substance. In order to get the required weight and obtain a profit, manufacturers of such goods must use dirt or some other filler. In buying a high grade fertilizer there is little danger of such methods, since to get the required quality inside the ton weight they must use the pure article. There is a temptation for manufacturers of low grade fertilizers to use phosphate rock, or other cheap grades, raising the per cent. of phosphoric acid but destroying the chemical balance of the fertilizers. Another excellent point brought out by charts and exhibits was the effect of sulphate of potash on orchards. It was shown that the sulphate of potash was much better than the muriate, and was, in fact, just about the thing needed to bring out a good crop. It seems chlorine in the muriate of potash probably lessens its good effect.

IN THE DAIRY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY car, P. M. Harwood of the State Dairy Bureau laid stress on the sanitary milk pail which he has brought out. It is a combination affair, and unites the excellent features of the Gurler and other pails. The top is closed down to an opening of moderate size to keep out the dirt, and this opening is fitted with wire gauze strainers, which are supplemented with cotton batting or cheese-cloth strainers, or both. The spout of the pail is protected by a cover, and the bottom of the pail slightly raised by a projecting rim. This pail, Mr. Harwood claims, greatly lessens the number of germs and amount of dirt in the milk, and enhances its keeping qualities. He showed charts illustrating the difference in the quality of milk from dirty cows and those which were well cared for and good stable surroundings. The dairy exhibit included a milking machine which attracted considerable attention, although

it was not recommended by the speaker, and is, apparently, not quite yet in a stage for practical business. Professor Cooley had considerable to say about various patent feeds which, he said were mainly useful as an avenue for helping the farmer spend surplus money if he had any.

IN THE HORTICULTURE car next to the spraying implement, etc., probably most attention was given by visitors to the gypsy and brown-tail moth exhibits, the train being most of the day in the sections where the pests are plenty. The speakers called attention to the havoc wrought in the nests of the brown-tail moths by a new fungus growth, and hope

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THREE PERCHERON STALLION FAVORITES OF HARTMAN STOCK FARM.

was expressed that the new foe of the moth might be successful in helping to check the pest. The gypsy moth also has a native parasite enemy which is causing him much trouble.

ALL OF THESE CARS were supplied with charts, models and illustrative exhibits of many kinds, more, in fact, than could be properly explained in the short time allowed at each station. The longest stop was made at Tewksbury, where dinner was supplied by the local Grangers. While part of the speakers were taking dinner, the rest had more time to explain the exhibits and talk to the farmers. When finally the train pulled out, most of the people had been through all the cars and heard all the speakers.

On the other hand, at Haverhill, the final stop, the stay was very short and brought out one of the worst faults of the train institute plan as now followed. The report from a Haverhill newspaper said:

"The four cars were quickly filled and then fifteen-minute talks were given in each car. This took up half the time, and with the crowd of people attracted by curiosity alone, the farmers who had come into the city from places within a radius of ten miles had but light chance of deriving any real benefit. It was just four-twenty five when the train hands closed the cars and was announced that the train would return to Boston instead of remaining in this city, and this announcement started the criticism and comment. When the lecture began in the freight yard and a brief talk was given on fertilizers, but in this as in the talks that were given in the cars, the farmers who were really interested had no opportunity to ask questions that they desired answered. The train pulled out at just four-thirty and went on its way to Boston, while many farmers left the freight yard disgusted in not even having a chance to see the exhibits, and arguing that if any good was to be accomplished the train ought to have remained here at least twice the time it did."

OPINIONS. Secretary J. L. Ellsworth of the State Board of Agriculture, who had charge of the meetings in this State, pronounced the tour a decided success, and believed the result would be to make the farmers do some hard and effective thinking.

Said Prof. G. E. Stone of the horticultural department: "At first the speakers felt almost as if they were part of a traveling circus, but they soon became interested in the work. I believe a season of such work will do more good than a dozen years of ordinary lecture meetings." Said P. M. Harwood of the dairy department: "I received the trip as a great success, and hope the train will become a permanent institution." Prof. W. P.

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I know of no description better than the motto

"They perish and are to be

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the south, and "get their own back," north-agriculture, by one of its representatives in the Chamber, has introduced a bill making a vote in every French election of twenty-eight cents of tobacco and of seventy-five cents of wine or spirits annually for family use. This, of course, would hit the southern wine and spirit growers hard. The Chamber knows that the Chamber will pass the bill, but its members are most earnestly determined that the Chamber shall discuss it.

At the Chamber's grand, the club ordered a departed ancestor to be inscribed with a title word, "Gene." In Sussex the initials and of the death of the deceased are followed by two words, "His was." The most remarkable one is as at Gen Hill County. The inscription is the inscription says: "Left till called

—Miss Nancy Howling Grant, the daughter of the third lord of the Okebury, twenty-four "puppy race" to some curio collectors \$1000. The gown was old and much eaten, but value counted in its decorations, 75th and 100th. As years go by the number of old gowns is decreasing. It is almost as if the teeth set for 25, while the best varieties sell for as as a 2nd coin. The top price is usually paid

In Belgium, by a recent regulation, all men and cows are to wear ear rings as soon as they attain the age of three months.

The thing of highest interest is a state in the Caucasus, in Georgia, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Roumania and Servia.

The outside walls of many of the houses in Moscow are from three to five feet thick, to stand earthquake shocks.

—Here is an editor who has been located in the United States (147, 7.) He denounces this of some residents of his town: "A man may use the mole on the back of his neck as collar button; he may ride a freight to save a cent a mile; he may light the lamp with his nose; he may have a new coat made to save a cent a yard; he may wear a shoe to save a nail; and pasture his grandmother's horse to save hay; but a man of this kind is a

and "a beautiful" and when asked to take it back in the postoffice, marked "lost."

MAILED.

The Forest Guard of Spring Town and Big Catches of Trout and Lamb-
basted Salmon Edward the Visitor.

In the spring the angler's fancy sends him toward
woods of Maine. He, Shakespeare, didn't write
about a type of catfish, but we say all
that just the same; and it is a sure thing that the
man who is busy preparing his tackle and fixing
rod is thinking of a rudder's journey north.
From the stream's rude banks and tokens of
and stage," the man in the wilderness enjoys
the luxury of civilization. There is there in
the man's nature which makes him occasionally
voluntarily turn back toward the primitive,

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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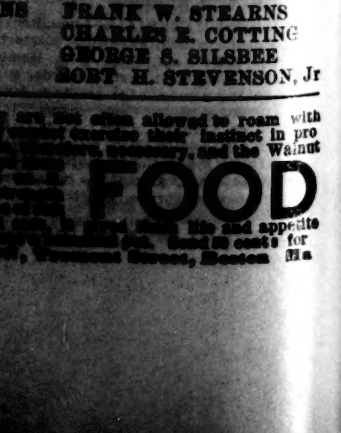
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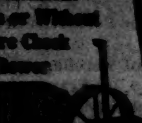
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HARRY BONNON, Manager.

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of the world; the **GRAND CURTAIN**, the highest priced
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live breeder of pure-bred stock.

[Condensed from essay by W. A. Eldridge,
awarded first prize by the Percheron Registry
Company.]

THE MODERN TYPE.

The small farmer who has planned to raise one or two foals a year should see that the brood mares are fed on the best of well-sorted English hay. A healthy, rugged brood mare that is carrying a foal is a hearty animal and will eat hay of an inferior quality if forced to do so, but that kind of a diet is not economical as it will surely have an injurious effect upon her foal. There is little danger of the farmer's brood mare becoming too fat if she gets plenty of exercise.—Horse Breeder.

Too Much Low-Grade Butter.

The sudden drop in the butter market was hardly a benefit to the trade, to say nothing of the shipper. A gradual decline would have enabled holders to work off their supplies in a more thorough manner. As it is, large stocks are left in storehouses which will either have to be sold at almost ruinous prices or carried over another season. This storage butter is mostly low grade, the really good storage butter having been sold out long ago. Apparently the only prospect of a good market for this

one-half cent on all other grades. Latest cable advices to George A. Coghane, from the principal markets of Great Britain, give butter markets as very much depressed. Stock of all kinds is heavy and pressed for sale at most irregular prices. American butters are practically unsaleable at the moment. Finest grades: American 20 to 24 cents, New Zealand 18 to 20 cents, 20 to 21 cents, Russian and Australian 19 to 20 cents. American resmery freely offered at 17 to 18 cents, and tides at 15 to 16 cents without attracting buyers. Foreign cheese markets are less active. Buyers ask concessions and holders, in some cases, have granted them. Finest American and Canadian white is offered at

With the large increase of poultry-keeping it seems hardly likely that the falling in receipts should continue for long. But just now good stock, both Western and Eastern, brings good prices, and shippers probably make no mistake in taking advantage of the situation promptly. For the next month probabilities will be more



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THE LAFAYETTE-LEWIS CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

Good Apple Prices.

Apples are selling well at full former prices, shipments being light, and demand keeping steady. Even the No. 2s meet with good sale. The other day the writer met L. Kinney, the well-known apple grower of Grand Isle County, Vt., who said that even his No. 2s, and such as were graded ordinarily he would not ship, and that his No. 1s, which he had sold as high as \$3.25. His shipment went out about ten days ago. His top price had been from \$6 to \$7 per barrel, these being very nice apples and coming to a nice class of trade. "To get these prices," said Mr. Kinney, "it is necessary to select the fruit very carefully and to have it packed in the best manner."

Poultry in Moderate Supply.
Poultry from nearby points is not in heavy supply, but there is a large amount of Western steak and cold-storage poultry on the market. Choices selling brothers and grub-sizes brothers bring good prices. Flocks of Northern and Western Geese and chickens show no particular change, while the frozen poultry from refrigerators has the demand in check, and prices inclined to rise.

[illegible]

Agriculture and the grange.
The train was in charge of Director J. L. Hills of the experiment station. The speakers included Professors L. R. Jones, C. R. Jones and William Stuart, with Messrs. R. E. Vaneau, C. Hunter and J. B. Abbott. Before the train left the college camp there were Secretary I. C. Weld of the Granite State Dairymen, the only member of the New Hampshire crew who stayed with the train; Secretary George Aitken of the Vermont State board; T. L. Kinsley, the well-known fruit grower; Ernest Hitehook, commissioner of forestry; W. A. Hunter, clerk of the New England milk producers, besides several others who attended the meeting.

The first few meetings were rather poorly

SECRETARY GEORGE ATKIN, superintendent of the Billings farm, gave him a of a good dairy cow: She should be a large, well-built animal of the dairy type with that "hungry look" about the head not full and bloaty, like the beef type. Forelegs should be wide apart, "not close, as if both legs were set in the same hole." Barrels and paunch should be well developed, allowing plenty of "room for food." Udder should be large and square. Little slipper to the hind legs. Color of coat should be pure white, except the face, legs and udder, which may be yellow. If yellow, butters and cream are white. A good cow is of value as a producer and of value to the herd, because her vitality and capacity will enable her to overcome herself.

CLOVER CULTURE

was the favorite subject of Prof. L. S. Jones. Look out for poor seed containing sometimes twenty per cent. of cereal straw, mustard, dirt, etc. The highest grade clover seed is ninety-nine per cent. pure. Use stable manure, and lime or ashes if the soil is sour. Alfalfa was giving a success in the islands of Lake Champlain, where some productive fields had been established five years. Even should a field need replanting every four or five years, Professor Jones considered it a success because of the big yield from the three or four cuttings made

to outgrow their share of four.

Sharon and New York apple buyers are willing to pay lower prices for No. 1 Vermont apples than they are for the same variety grown in New England, because they expect better prices. This investment in the market and increase over production is a gamble. But carefully, Connecticut's apples can pay handsomely.

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